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OK C/025/005 Incoming  
cc: Priscilla  
Daron

April 10, 2008

RECEIVED

APR 15 2008

To whom it may concern:

DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

I am writing in objection to the Alton coal-mining project. It saddens me to see how quickly the local residents and interested parties are selling out and seem uninterested in protecting such a unique area. There are no shortage of examples in this country of small towns be environmentally devastated by the coal industry. Allowing this project to happen without a fight shows how unwilling we are to learn from history.

The town of Alton's willingness to abuse its imminent domain rights in support of the project is unbelievable. Not only are they being irresponsible by supporting the project, but they are also using unethical means to do it. That Alton's leadership would even consider condemning and possessing an owner's property in order to benefit big business is astounding, especially when other viable options exist. The imminent domain provision is intended for situations where the development of the town is at stake, not to make a private company's work more convenient. The leadership of Alton seems more interested in protecting the interest of outside business than that of its citizens. If the coal-mining project is of such benefit to the town of Alton, perhaps they wouldn't mind routing the trucks down main street so they might enjoy the sound of progress both day and night.

Allowing this coal-mining project to happen is a mistake and should be stopped immediately.

Sincerely,



Chance J Bentley

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